

APRIL 2021

## News

### Announcement of Community Support and Outreach Coordinator position

Wikimedia Australia is excited to announce Caddie Brain as our inaugural Community Support and Outreach Coordinator. Caddie is an experienced Wikimedian, communications specialist and curator who has been on the Wikimedia Australia committee since 2016. She is well known for running edit-a-thons across Australia working to overcome regional disadvantage and re-centre marginalised stories mainly through Wikiclub NT. She has also coordinated our recent partnership with the National Gallery of Australia and others on its Know My Name initiative running national edit-a-thons. She is hitting the ground running to build new partnerships, improve our communications and grow our presence here in Australia. Caddie is working part time and would love to hear from you. You can reach her at:

[caddie.brain@wikimedia.org.au](mailto:caddie.brain@wikimedia.org.au)

Caddie has resigned from her position of Vice President in order to take up this new role. We are therefore looking to co-opt an interim member for the committee to serve short term until the next AGM (August 2021) in line with [Item 21 of our Rules](#). If you're interested in joining please contact President Alex Lum:

[alex.lum@wikimedia.org.au](mailto:alex.lum@wikimedia.org.au).

### A big March on Women's content

From International Women's Day to Women's History Month, the focus on growing women's content on Wikipedia platforms every March only grows and we've got the evidence to prove it. By the start of April, the number of pages about women on English Wikimedia [reached 18.83](#) per cent.

More than 60 Australian editors did their bit, joining edit-a-thons in Melbourne, Canberra,



Sydney and online to work on the Wikipedia presence of women in religion, art, science and academia. Together they created dozens of new pages and improved hundreds of existing articles.

Events were held at the National Gallery of Australia as part of its Know My Name initiative, University of Sydney School of Literature, Art and Media, [University of Divinity](#) and Art+Feminism with the Australia Women's Register at Richmond Library. Also joining the campaign for the first time this year was a month-long effort from Women in Earth and Environmental Sciences in Australasia, who after an initial online training session with Wikimedia Australia, spent a month working on the pages of renown women in earth and environmental sciences.

Congratulations and a huge thank you to all involved! You can explore the outcomes further at the following dashboards for the [WOMEESA event](#), [Know My Name](#), [University of Sydney](#), [Art+Feminism in Melbourne](#) and [Australian women in religion](#).

### Four years of Women Write Wiki

One of Australia's longest running Wikipedia editing groups celebrated four years of editing, activism and friendship in March. Women Write Wiki has met twice per month at The Women's Library in the inner-Sydney suburb of Newtown since 2017.



Founded by Anna Kerr, the Principal Solicitor of the Feminist Legal Clinic in Sydney with technologist and general polymath Spider Redgold through Create NSW, the group has now created over 300 new pages and produced some of Australia's most prolific Wikipedians such as Ann Reynolds and Margaret Donald (right).

"Wikipedia just mirrors the battles we have in general society," Kerr reflects. "That's why having a team is so important. If you post something or have an issue, you can send it around and then several people would jump in and support you. It's just so much better working together."

[Read the full story on our blog here.](#)

### Who do we think we are?

What is the relationship between Wikipedia and the Order of Australia recipients? Who is represented and who isn't?

In February 2021, researchers Heather Ford, Tamson Pietsch and Kelly Tall from UTS School of Communication published the results of a pilot study entitled [Producing distinction: Wikipedia and the Order of Australia. A visual essay.](#)

The study was inspired by the work of [Women in Red](#) and the Australian [Honour a Woman](#) project which was founded in 2017 to improve gender equity by supporting nominations of women for the Order of Australia awards, highlighting structural barriers to inclusion. The Order of Australia is notorious for not recognising women

at the same rate as men, but the researchers discovered that on Wikipedia, awardees at the Companions or Officer level (the highest Order awards) are represented in slightly higher numbers than men.

Across all levels of the awards, only 11 per cent of recipients have a Wikipedia biography, but the Order announcement is an important moment that establishes notability on Wikipedia, and there is a discernible spike in page creation in the week the awards are announced. However, keyword analysis showed that Wikipedia tends to notice women for contributions to sport and athletics, entertainment, media, and politics before they receive the Order but only after the award if their Honour is for work in nursing, community health, paediatrics, aged care and disability services. The researchers recommend that Wikipedia editors focus not only on *numbers* of women represented but the types of labour being recognised.

The dataset and visualisations are available at: [Data: Who do we think we are?](#)

### Margaret hits 600, not out



Congratulations to Wikipedian Margaret Donald who recently completed her 600th Wikipedia article. Margaret began editing in late 2017 when she got a new camera and "began seeing things I couldn't see before". She started uploading images of plants onto Wikimedia Commons. But did she think she'd get four years down the track with hundreds of thousands of edits? "Oh God no!" she said.

Passionate about flora, her work quickly expanded to include writing pages on different native species with a more recent focus on linking flora and fauna on Wikidata, on which she's now made over 350,000 edits. She has been responsible for nominating numerous Australian biota identifiers getting them represented on the taxonbar, and more recently has been working to identify species featured in the [photo collection of Kevin Thiele](#).

For Margaret searching for answers, fixing misidentifications or errors and making content discoverable is what it's all about. "I just want to find the gaps and fill them, to identify things and find original sources and connect everything up," she said. "The more people that can identify things the better, because you can see if something is rare or not rare and may think: 'crikey! Maybe we need to keep this piece of land! It contains all these species.' These are incredibly valuable tools to put in the hands of people."

Have you recently hit a benchmark in your editing? Let us know: [contact@wikimedia.org.au](mailto:contact@wikimedia.org.au)

### **DX Lab launches Art Index**

Now here's an interesting use of Wikidata! Introducing... Art Index. Designed and built by the State Library of NSW's [DX Lab](#), this data visualisation project is powered by data from the [Australian Art Exhibition Catalogue Index, 1847—1900](#). It aims to make exploring this rich but complex data set easier and more productive. For more well known artists, Art Index includes data from [Wikidata](#) and links to relevant external sources. [Explore it here](#).

### **And finally... a belated happy 20th birthday to Wikipedia!**

A big thanks to all who joined us and presented at our 20th birthday celebration and the launch of our [20 year video](#) in January. It was great to mark the moment together and plot our impact across the years.

It prompted a fantastic interview on Radio National recently featuring University of Technology Sydney's Heather Ford [who wrote this piece](#), journalist Richard Cook ([his Wired story here](#)) and our very own Caddie Brain. [You can listen here!](#)

## **Coming up**

### **April Community meeting**

On this Wednesday 14 April is a discussion about teaching with Wikipedia! In 2019, a secondary school in Melbourne hosted a Wikipedia edit-a-thon for its history students, focusing on Australian women. Educators found it gave students real world experience and a greater appreciation for the way that history is not fixed but is continuously evolving. They recently [wrote about the experience for Agora](#).

Mary Tomsic of the Australian Catholic University, Clare Crowe, an English and Literature teacher at Avila College and Helen Morgan of the 50/50 by 2030 Foundation at the University of Canberra will join us to reflect on this experience and share their thoughts on what opportunities there may be to teach with Wikipedia.

On at 7pm AEST (6.30pm SA/NT, 5.00pm WA). [Register here](#).

### **Calling all librarians**

Imagine a world where every librarian added just one citation to Wikipedia? #1Lib1Ref, an abbreviation for 'one librarian, one reference', calls on librarians around the world (and anyone else really!) to add missing references. It is on again from 15 May until 5 June 2021.

This year Wikimedia Australia will be running online drop-in sessions every Tuesday from 10am and Thursday from noon over this period to support new editors. Keep an eye on the Wikimedia Australia events page for details. Also if you are keen to organise an event at your library get in touch: [contact@wikimedia.org.au](mailto:contact@wikimedia.org.au)



## Take a shot! Wiki Loves Earth is back for 2021



*Dingoes of Fraser Island, [Swampy99](#)*

The Wiki Loves Earth competition is back for 2021! Enter your photos from any natural heritage sites from around Australia – nature reserves, landscape conservation areas, national parks or protection areas for use across Wikimedia Foundation projects.

You can submit multiple entries but they must be your own work. Photos taken within protected areas are eligible. A panel of judges will select 10 Australian photos for submission into the international competition in August as well as awarding them a \$100 prize voucher.

Entries open on Saturday 1 May closing on Sunday 13 June. [More information here.](#)

## Feature tool

### Copyright detector

Have you ever heard of [Earwig's Copyvio Detector](#) tool? It can be used to check a Wikipedia page for copyright issues. Just paste in the page title (not the URL) and click 'Submit'. Identical text will be highlighted and can then be reworded.

It's a great reminder that when creating a new article, whether in your sandbox or mainspace, always rewrite and reference as you go. Do not save/publish copy-and-paste material in your

sandbox, as it can be deleted from there and you may be banned.

Thanks to Oronsay for sharing this tool with us. Have you discovered a new tool? Share it with us at: [contact@wikimedia.org.au](mailto:contact@wikimedia.org.au)

## Global news

### Farewell Katherine Maher!

In February, CEO of the Wikimedia Foundation Katherine Maher announced her resignation, finishing up this Thursday 15 April. She has overseen Wikipedia's [20th birthday](#), the launch of a [Universal Code of Conduct](#) and the [movement strategy recommendations](#). You can read [Katherine's announcement here](#). We thank her for all her work and wish her all the best.

### Wikimania 2021

Congratulations to Gngarra on his appointment to the Core Organizing Team for [Wikimania 2021](#), a virtual conference from 13 - 17 August 2021. Save the dates!

### East, Southeast Asia and the Pacific (ESEAP) Hub

Thanks to everyone who completed the recent survey on ESEAP events. The [ESEAP Hub](#) is a network of Wikimedia communities in our region working to share experiences and ideas, and to find regional collaboration opportunities. For online events our shared timezone makes this our bridge for connecting to the global movement. Meetings will be monthly on a weekend.

### Code of Conduct

The Wikimedia movement is taking a major step working towards development and ratification of a [Universal Code of Conduct \(UCoC\)](#) to cover all activity across all projects and communities. Wikimedia Australia encourages all members and Australian editors and organisers to get involved in the consultation process through 2021.

## Stay in touch

If you have any content you'd like us to feature in the next newsletter, please get in touch at: [contact@wikimedia.org.au](mailto:contact@wikimedia.org.au). You can also follow us on our [website](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).